



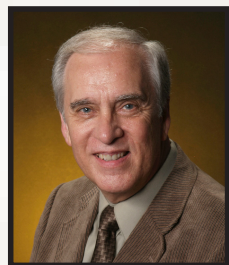
**Friendship
INTERNATIONAL**
*Empowered by the Holy Spirit,
Reaching Out to a Needy World*

UPDATE
MONTHLY ...
2023

Number 1.24

P.O. Box 50884, Colorado Springs, CO 80949-0884, USA • Tel. 719-386-8808 • Email: FRINT@aol.com • Website: www.friendshipintl.org

January, 2024



Del Huff
Executive Director

***“And now, we welcome the new year. . .
Full of things that have never been.”***

Rainer Maria Rilke, born in Prague, Czech Republic

The mystery of the unknown often captivates people’s curiosity. But most people wish they had a crystal ball because the mystery of the unknown can bring about high levels of anxiety and fear. At the beginning of 2024, there are many unknowns.

Here are three suggestions on how to embrace the unknown or the mysteries of a new year. Whether it is dealing with the current high partisanship in our politics, the fear of how people may respond if their candidate does not win in November, the inflation issue, children’s schooling, floods of people pouring across our southern border and wars in various parts of the world, all of these can shake the foundation of our faith. How can we bolster this foundation in the face of the many unknowns or mysteries of a new year and beyond? The three ways are having the right attitude, awareness, and taking action.

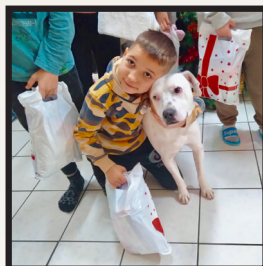
The Christian attitude in the face of uncertainty should be anchored in faith, love, and trust in God. Trust in God and be content in all circumstances (Philippians 4:11-13). He, God, is working all things out for the good of those who love Him (Romans 8:28).

Today is a new day, it is a new year, intentionally look forward. As you face the unknown in the new year, you can apply Philippians 3:13-14. Set specific and achievable goals that align with your spiritual and personal growth. With the help of the Holy Spirit, strive to live a life that honors God, putting effort into growing in faith, character, and service to others. Make a daily commitment to press on toward the spiritual goals you’ve set and cultivate habits such as prayer, Bible study, and acts of kindness that contribute to your growth in Christ.

Having the right attitude, awareness and taking action will put us in a good place as we enter into the unknown.

Follow-up - Project Christmas Parties 2023 in Romania

by Adi Muscan, Romanian Director



What a blessed time of celebration and thanksgiving this past holiday season was for us! The Lord showed us His grace and mercy during those last days of 2023.

With Tabita’s unexpected hospitalization the beginning of December made it difficult for me to imagine finding time to organize the parties, buy the supplies and carry out Christmas parties in the Orphanages and Foster Homes. Believe me, it was hard sometimes for me to even think straight, and all my family was in shock. We are still trying to recover from Tabita’s emergency health issue. Tabita is now a bit better, but still no conclusive diagnosis. She still has a lot of pain in her legs, more and more blood tests, but at least she is home until the 19th and then she returns to hospital in Timisoara for more tests and hopefully a treatment.

This year we planned to visit kids in remote places, kids that are taken into foster families. We knew these kids from this summer at Friendship Camp. But it was quite an undertaking, because these home where outside of Arad in Obarsia and Valea Mare (about 2 and half hours trip) away. I was absolutely amazed to see these kids, in their home environment, so well integrated into the families, helping the foster parents with what is needed around the house, and enjoying very much especially working with farm animals like cows, sheep, horses and chickens, and playing with the house dogs and cats. It was such a wonderful thing to experience, seeing how these children, who had come from very bad home situations and in some cases orphanages that were very abusive to the children, respond to the simple love and attention of parents who showed concern and respect for the children as human beings (Normal activities of daily life). And as the children are integrated in the families they are getting a better education, and year by year there are changes taking place in their speaking, thinking and acting. It is so interesting for us to not only see the difference in some of these kids as they come to camp year after year, but to see that there are also such wonderful things happening in the home environment.

The parties gave us a great time to spend interacting with the kids, sharing a good time, having delicious Christmas cakes and of course. we took time to repeat the amazing story of the birth of Jesus, and why he had to come into our world to bring joy, peace, love and hope. And we wanted to make sure they understood, at their level, what Christmas was really all about. Many of them were clear and understood the meaning of Christmas, while others were still seeking to know.

This year we were able to share with 40 children, from far away and closer places. The Maranata House Orphanage in Arad and the Sorin House Orphanage in Pecica, which is 20 minutes from us, were two official orphanages we are able to invite to summer camp.

These kids are all special to our hearts, and we appreciate so much your prayers and care that you show through your financial donations to make it possible that we can have contact with the kids not only in the summer but at least one or more times throughout the year for these special activities. On behalf of “the least of these” children of Romania, we want to thank those especially who sent gifts of love and prayers.

Saying Good-bye to Special People in 2023

We don't often mention those who have gone on before us to their eternal home with the Lord. But this month we want to remember, both friends and family, who have meant so much to us personally, and also to the ministry of Friendship International. We would like to ask you to pray for their friends and family members who have been left behind and are dealing with their grief and significant loss.

August 19, 2023



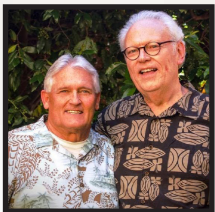
Paul Hofrichter, pictured here with his wife Diana, who went to be with the Lord less than one year earlier. Paul passed away after a short bout with cancer. He was the brother of Dawn Huff, Director Del Huff's wife. Del and Dawn served together with Paul and Diana in music evangelism for over one decade through the ministry of the Janz Team in German speaking Europe. After returning from Germany, Paul and Diana were faithful supporters of F.I., through their financial support and arranging meetings in their area for F.I. to have mission concerts. We will miss them dearly, as family, friends and music enthusiasts. Please pray for their 4 children and grandchildren left behind.

December 19, 2023



Joe Sydnor, pictured here with Carmen, his wife. Joe and Carmen were great supporters and fans of F.I. for many years. Joe traveled to Romania on two different occasions with work teams to serve at Friendship Camp. He even drove our bus on one of our concert tours in the states for our music group, A New Song. He and Carmen always worked as willing servants of the Lord. Please pray for Carmen as she continues to serve the Lord in her church and with various local Hispanic outreach ministries. We will miss Joe, but not nearly as much as his loving wife, Carmen, will.

December 31, 2023



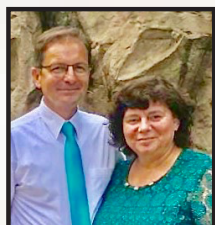
Alan Landros, on the right, is pictured with a life-saving friend, Bleyden Loupensock, who was a kidney donor to Alan approximately 20 years ago. Alan's life is one that his friends, will never forget. Del and Dawn met Alan, along with his parents, in 1970 while Del was serving as youth pastor in a church in Glendale, CA. Alan was in the youth group, and since then has been a loyal, life-long friend. He never married, but spent his life caring for his parents, until they passed on. He and his dear parents were faithful supporters and encouragers of Friendship International. He traveled on two different occasions on mission trips sponsored by F.I.

Alan was a true people person with an amazing memory, who leaves behind an unprecedented list of friends, many of whom he also cared for through difficult times. So there has been a huge gap left in their hearts since his passing.

It somehow seems a bit trivial to use this phrase, but oh, how true it is in the case of all these beloved friends and family members. ***Our Loss is Heaven's Gain.***

This world is not my home, I'm just a passin' through.

IMMEDIATE PRAYER REQUEST



Tabita and Adi Muscan are senior missionaries with F.I. They have worked faithfully for decades, and until COVID, traveled in our music group, A New Song. But their main ministry has always been at Friendship Camp.

In December Tabita began having significant pain in different parts of her body. Her doctor determined that her white and red blood cells were out of balance with a deficiency of red cells. The doctors feel it is some kind of viral infection, but are not sure yet what it might be. Please pray for strength and relief from the constant pain she is experiencing, and most importantly that the doctors will soon be able to find the cause and begin treatment.

A NEW MINISTRY FOR A NEW YEAR IN BELIZE, CENTRAL AMERICA

by Del Huff, Executive Director

Approximately two years ago we heard about a small Christian Off-grid community in the country of Belize. My wife and I had talked about visiting Belize, not too seriously, across the years. We decided we would take a short vacation and visit this tiny Caribbean country, formerly known as British Honduras. We enjoyed the mountains, the rain forest, caves and ruins. And especially the relaxed Caribbean life style. We made friends almost immediately with several and a community of Mennonites.

We traveled there later on a couple different trips and decided two things. We wanted to try to buy property and build a small retirement home, and in the meantime, we discovered there were several opportunities for being involved in ministry.

Bringing the story up to recent days, last year in August, I set out to start a community choir. It was a long shot, but as I observed in many of the churches in the community, they were moving away from traditional singing in their worship services and following the trend of contemporary worship, and yet almost half of the congregation didn't join in the singing. So, I decided to go back to the basics.

Our first presentation was a Christmas Concert on Dec. 9, with the theme, ***Joy To The World***, a traditional Christmas celebration.



The Lord sent us 25 enthusiastic singers. But we also had some nice instrumental accompaniment with two acoustic guitars, a flute, two violins and a wonderful piano player.

We had to trust the Lord for many things, but the big question was, would people come? We wouldn't know that answer until the evening of the concert.



The night came. By 7 pm, the hall which held 200 people was full. And by 7:10 pm, I was told, there were as many people standing outside as were seated inside. Thank you Lord.